To the Honorable the COMMONS of GREAT BRITAIN in PARLIAMENT aſſembled;

THE HUMBLE PETITION

Of CHARLES WALMESLEY, WILLIAM GIBSON, and JOHN DOUGLASS, for and on Behalf of themſelves, and of the larger Number of the ROMAN CATHOLICS of this Kingdom,

SHEWETH,

THAT they are moſt dutifully and loyally attached to the Perſon and Family of his moſt ſacred Majeſty, and are equally ready with any other of his Majeſty's liege Subjects to give any Teſt of their Loyalty and Submiſſion to the Laws and Conſtitution of their Country, that Government may require, which ſhall be perfectly conſiſtent with the tenets of their religious belief.

THAT, they beg leave to offer their moſt grateful acknowledgments to this Honorable Houſe, for having permitted a Bill to be brought in for the relief of ſome perſons profeſſing the Roman Catholic religion: And they are fully confident, that this Honorable Houſe will in their liberality and juſtice extend that relief indiſcriminately and unexceptionably to all the Roman Catholics of this country, who are bound to their Church by one and the ſame tie of faith and ſubmiſſion, and are attached to the Government of theſe Realms by one and the ſame obligation of fealty and ſubjection.

THAT, in as much as the ſame conſcientious reaſons, which, through a ſucceſſion of ages, ever did, ſtill do withold the Roman Catholics from conforming with the Church Eſtabliſhment of this Realm, they humbly think that the aſſumption of any new appellation or deſcriptive diſtinction may ſeem to import an inſidious appearance of having changed or renounced ſome tenets of their religious belief, which they moſt emphatically hold and maintain, cannot vary, and therefore cannot be renounced.

THAT, although they do not object againſt the general ſubſtance of that Form of Oath, which is contained in the Bill now before this Honorable Houſe, yet they humbly ſubmit to the conſideration of this Honorable Houſe, that in ſome inſtances it is expreſſed in ſuch looſe, abſtract, ambiguous, or indeciſive terms, that it cannot be taken conſiſtently with truth or the tenets of their religious belief. And they are convinced that the liberality of this Honorable Houſe will look upon the minuteneſs and preciſion, with which they require the Oath to be framed, as the ſureſt earneſt of their intention to keep it inviolate, when they ſhall have once taken it.

THAT, as no variation can have happened in the religious tenets of your Petitioners, nor hath any change been made in the government or conſtitution of theſe realms, ſince the year of our Lord 1778, at which time Parliament kindly afforded ſome relief to the Roman Catholics of this Country, your Petitioners are confident that this Honorable Houſe, will in their liberal intention to enlarge ſuch relief, find *that* Oath, upon the taking of which, they then granted that partial relief, full and adequate to every wiſh and intention, and to the ſecurity and ſatisfaction of Government.

THAT,

THAT, your Petitioners have no objection againſt taking the Oath, which was propoſed to, and taken by the Roman Catholics of this Country, in the year 1778. Nor have they any objection againſt taking that Oath, which was propoſed to, and taken by the Roman Catholics of Ireland in the year 1774. And as the religious tenets of the Roman Catholics of Ireland are preciſely the ſame, as thoſe of the Roman Catholics of England; and as the Government and Conſtitution, to which the Iriſh Roman Catholics then ſwore fealty and ſubjection, are the ſame, to which your Petitioners are now called upon, or required to ſwear fealty and ſubjection; your Petitioners humbly ſubmit it to the conſideration of this Honorable Houſe, that the requiſition of one and the ſame teſt, for one and the ſame purpoſe, from perſons profeſſing one and ſame principle, is more conſonant with the dignity of this Honorable Houſe, than to require new conditions for the extenſion of a favor, which does not vary in quality from that, which was firſt granted.

THAT, if this Honorable Houſe in the depth of their diſcretion and wiſdom, which your Petitioners do not preſume to fathom, ſhall find it requiſite to demand and require a new teſt of fealty and ſubmiſſion, different either from that propoſed to and taken by the Roman Catholics of this kingdom in the year 1778, or the Roman Catholics of Ireland in the year 1774;

YOUR PETITIONERS humbly pray this Honorable Houſe, that they will graciouſly be pleaſed to admit of ſuch alterations or qualifications in the form of the Oath, which is contained and expreſſed in the Bill now before them, as ſhall be ſuggeſted by your Petitioners, and which ſhall be conſiſtent with the tenets of their religious belief, and conformable with the principles, intentions, and requiſitions of Government.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray.

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